

as satisfactory. Mr. Plimoll, we think, demonstrates clearly that such an answer proves nothing.

The main causes of preventable shipwrecks may be classed under the three heads of unseaworthiness, overloading, and undermanning. A report of the Board of Trade states that of the 2,000 casualties in the carrying trade which occurred in the year 1868, more than half of them "are reported to have been due to the overladen, or ill-found vessels of the collision class, chiefly employed in the coasting trade. In the six years ending 1868, the number is more than half." It is very satisfactory, so far, to know that the great body of shipowners are highly respectable men, who resist the strong temptation to sacrifice the lives of their men to the profits of their trade. These men, who voluntarily submit their vessels to Lloyd's Inspectors, have everything to gain by Government regulation, being made universal, and many of them have recommended in favor of it. For since ill-found and overladen ships are constantly foundering, the underwriters must recoup themselves for their losses in bad business by raising the rates naturally on good customers. Unhappily, the men who habitually play fast-and-loose with life are represented, as we have said, in high places by fellow-citizens, whose great business and fortune give them considerable influence and consideration, and hitherto they have successfully resisted the influence of those who have successfully resisted the influence of the insurance companies.

Japan, fashion, with a floor raised three or four feet from the ground, were made only one store above ground, and were covered with a roof of thatch. The houses were roofed with tiles of a Chinese fashion, very strong and thick. The buildings in which they store their rice are built of wood and thatched with straw. They are supported on wooden posts about five feet high, and resemble the granaries of the Aths, though constructed with much greater care.

According to Japanese accounts the native of Japan are islands of a calm and reflective temperament, and that the presence of mind even on the most difficult occasions, to observe the principles of Confucius and are extremely courteous in their demeanor towards others. Conservative in their opinions, they also allow the native gods. In fact, such value do they attach to a polished behavior that they style their native land "the country which observes propriety," and pillars inscribed with this appellation in Chinese characters stand at the corners of the streets in Shuri. It may be well to note that the name given to the metropolis of Loochoo is simply "chief city," according to the practice which obtained in China and Japan, where we find Nanking and Peking on the one hand, Kioto and Tokio (or Tokut) on the other.

(To be continued.)

A German settler in Ohio, found guilty of selling liquor contrary to law, and sentenced to be imprisoned in the county jail for thirty days, protested as follows: "Chail! I go to jail! But I can't go! Der's my pincess my pinkey! Who pakes my bread when I am gone?" Then casting his eyes about the court, especially at the Chinese, he said, "I am a countryman, who had no 'pincess,' and forthwith a brilliant idea struck him. Turning to the judge he said in sober earnest: "Dere's Elizera! He's got nothing to do; send him!"

The particular failing in this case, and Mr. Plimoll gives a black catalogue of other cases when men of note and standing were doomed unless they went to jail without delay.

We quote an instance that came under personal observation:—He had gone to a port in the North, where he met a friend who caused his probable arrest. "You should have been here yesterday," said this gentleman, "we went down the river so deeply loaded that every one who saw her expected to hear of her having been lost." The captain himself "had measured the water to see if she was still afloat, and was only 20 inches out of water when she sank." The man had been three weeks at sea, and had been forced to pay wages. The police boat had him to jail for the last moment to prevent them deserting. At the last moment two men hurried the police, saying they would rather be taken to prison than sail. The police rejoined that they could not interfere. The vessel sailed, and the men were never heard of again. It is to be remarked that sailors who have once signed articles have no means of withdrawing from them, agreement, although their ships should be laden down to the water's edge. Evidence of the branch of contract, namely, the right to sign and then to prison, and things will not be bad indeed before seamen will risk being disgruntled among their mates as regards.

NOTES ON LOOCHOO.

By E. W. SATOW, Esq. Read before the Asiatic Society on the 3rd October, 1872.

Loochoo, called Linkia by the Chinese and Rinkiu by the Japanese, is the chief island of a group lying in the North Pacific Ocean, between the 24th and 29th parallels of latitude. Its name is said to be derived from a fancied resemblance to a "dragon lying stretched-out," but is not written in any of the Chinese characters which would bear that interpretation. The commencement of the 14th century it was split up into three independent sovereigns called Oshizuna, Sannan and Sambon, which were re-united under one monarch about the year 1430. Since that time it has been divided into three provinces, namely, Suimajiri Sei on the south, Chuzan Sei in the centre, and Kenkin Sei on the north. The central province contains the capital Shuri and its port Nafo. The whole empire consists of subject islands, including those on the coast of Corea, which sometimes were considered as belonging to the Prince of Satsuma, is thirty-six. The smaller ones are administered by a single Governor, while to Taihein (or Miyako) Yawayama and Oshima (or three, and to Bushi, two officials are appointed.

The Japanese manuscript account called Rinkiu Jiraku (by Arata Hakkaku), states that there were ten embassies between Japan and Loochoo, and took place in the year 1621, under the Emperor Hiazen. In 1622, the King of Loochoos brought a present of a thousand strings of cash to Asahiko Yoshimasa, the then reigning Shogun. In those days very little commerce was coined in Japan, and the greater part of the currency consisted of Yang (Yenku) in Japan purchased from China by shipments of gold-dust, so that the offering was no doubt highly acceptable. From this time onwards the Loochooans frequently traded to Hiogo, and first made a trade of another embassy, in the year 1629, under the supremacy of Hidetada, or as European would style him, Tokuo sama. 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